

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02
PA-01 PRS-01 NSC-05 USIA-06 DODE-00 DLOS-09 /059 W
-----114059 011145Z /14

P R 010955Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6547
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T JAKARTA 1448

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, PORG, ID, ASEAN
SUBJECT: ACTING FONMIN'S COMMENTS ON ASEAN
SECRETARY GENERAL DHARSONO

REF: JAKARTA 1232, DTG 270854Z JAN 78

1. DURING OUR MEETING TODAY (FEB 1) TO DISCUSS LAW OF
SEA MATTERS, ACTING FONMIN MOCHTAR KUSUMAATMADJA APPEARED
CLEARLY PREOCCUPIED WITH PROBLEM OF RECALLING SECRETARY
GENERAL DHARSONO, WHO HE SAID APPEARED INTENT ON "FORCING
SHOWDOWN." FOLLOWING IS MOCHTAR'S DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT
STATE OF PLAY.

2. CONFIRMING THAT ASEAN AMBASSADOR'S WISHED DHARSONO TO
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COMPLETE HIS TERM AND THAT PRESIDENT SUHARTO INSISTED ON
HIS RECALL (REFTEL), MOCHTAR SAID DHARSONO HAS (A) REFUSED
SUGGESTION THAT HE GO ON EXTENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE ON
GROUNDS THAT HE HAD NOT EARNED RIGHT TO SO MUCH LEAVE,
(B) EXPRESSED UNWILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE TO SERVE UNLESS
GOI WITHDREW ITS STATEMENT OF NO-CONFIDENCE AND (C), AFTER
SOME REFLECTION, REJECTED SUGGESTION THAT HE RESIGN.

MOCHTAR NOTED WITH A SLIGHT NOTE OF CONCERN THAT DHARSONO HAD REPORTEDLY CALLED PRESS CONFERENCE FOR THIS AFTERNOON AND WONDERED WHETHER SOMEONE MIGHT BE "EGGING HIM ON."

3. CRITICAL COMMENTS ON INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS CONSTITUTED UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR FOR ASEAN SECGEN REGARDLESS OF HIS NATIONALITY OR IDENTITY OF COUNTRY CRITICIZED, MOCHTAR EMPHASIZED. WHILE OTHER ASEAN GOVERNMENTS AGREED THAT DHARSONO'S ACTION CONSTITUTED UNACCEPTABLE PRECEDENT, IT WAS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN APPROVAL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS FOR HIS REMOVAL. MOCHTAR SAID HIS TRIP TO INDIVIDUAL CAPITALS WOULD REPLACE MINISTERIAL MEETING, WHICH COULD NOT BE CALLED TO HANDLE THIS ISSUE. CONSENSUS OF MINISTERS WOULD BE EXPRESSED BY THAI FONMIN UPADIT AS CHAIRMAN OF STANDING COMMITTEE, MOCHTAR SAID.

4. WE HAVE JUST HEARD THAT DHARSONO IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE THIS AFTERNOON STATED HE WOULD NOT STEP DOWN UNLESS THIS DECISION WAS MADE IN AN ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING.
MASTERS

SECRET

NNN

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